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Henry Hastings Hall to Fanny Bracher, 16 June 1865

Mandurah W Australia

June 16th 1865

My dear Fanny

I have indeed been sadly remiss with regard to the kind letters you have occasionally written. One can never redeem the past, but I hope this prompt reply will be taken as an earnest of my sincere regret for past neglect and my good intentions for the future.

I only received your nice note today, what a very good hand you write, I think bye and by I must come to school to you. Your letter is all news to me I was not aware you had changed your abode, not having heard from Aunt for a long time. You may mention to her that I sent certain copies of letters, I hope she received them — and forwarded to your mama. I send you three newspapers — they contain a deeply interesting Journal of an Expedition formed to recover the bodies of three unfortunate explorers who were killed by the natives. I knew them all well. Panter stopped a night at my place some months ago. He was a fine young fellow, a nephew of our last Governor, and was engaged to be married to a young lady, daughter of Colonel Molloy. Mr M Brown who headed the searching party was one of Mr Gregory's band of explorers when your uncle Shakespeare was with him. Brown is a mere boy not more than 20. I know not which most to admire — his bravery or his perseverance and skill. I often get letters from your uncle S he is well and doing well, but he does not like the heat of the climate so far north. When you and dear Aunt have done with the papers please send them to your mother — she often sends me papers but I do not very frequently hear from her — I suppose she is very much occupied with family matters

Last Friday I spent a very pleasant day at Capt Fawcetts Pinjarrah Park, there was a review of the Mounted Volunteers, they were inspected by Colonel & Commandant Bruce. Your uncle drilled with them and afterwards at the dinner which was a splendid affair made two speeches, one in proposing the health of the magistrates,

and the other, 'Mrs Fawcett and the ladies of the district', in the latter toast he was very funny and made the company laugh a good deal — I do not belong to the Volunteer Force, I was only a guest. I sent a report of the proceedings to one of our papers, if I think of it I will send it, of course I could only give the gist and spirit of the speeches and my own which some stupid noodles had a grand opinion of, my natural *modesty* forbade me to report

I suppose the large blot on the corner of your letter was intended for a kiss, that's what I took it for, I hope you won't blush and say 'no indeed uncle it wasn't'

I can only imagine you the nice little girl you were when last I saw you, yet I suppose you are quite a tall young woman — and your dear sister Amelia, I remember the morning I left Sandhurst she ran from her bedroom in her night dress and clung so to me, she wanted little dear to come with me. That is now six years ago so she will be greatly changed. I hope it will yet be in my power to see you all again. Our friends in this Colony are all well, but they are so scattered I seldom see them, I have only seen my sisters once since I returned from the diggings and that is four years ago With very kind love to Aunt cousins & yourself, believe me

My dear Fanny
ever affect^{ly} yours
H H Hall